

*[English]***Losses suffered by Coffee Board**

\*154. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coffee Board has been suffering losses for the last three years;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for such losses;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to make the Coffee Board viable; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Economic Reforms**

\*155. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :  
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assured the investors by removing their apprehension with regard to tardy progress of liberalisation and economic reforms that top priority would be given to implement the reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated increase in the investments as a result of assurances given by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The Government's commitment to economic reforms has been amply illustrated by the various measures undertaken in the year 1998-99 as well as in the Union Budget (1999-2000). The reform measures undertaken so far are aimed at providing a strong stimulus to infrastructure, boosting industrial growth, reviving capital markets and accelerating overall economic activity.

(b) Reforms initiated so far include delicensing of major industries, expanding the scope of foreign direct investment and liberalising norms thereof, implementing

specific steps for the small scale sector, disinvestment in select public sector enterprises, widening the scope of private investment in infrastructure, announcing measures like buy-back of shares for rejuvenating corporate growth etc. The Union Budget (1999-2000) has provided a fillip to housing and small scale sectors by announcing far-reaching measures. Foreign investment norms have been further simplified and liberalised. The excise and customs structures have been rationalised and a special thrust has been given to expenditure management.

(c) During January-November 1998, 2764 investment intentions were filed through IEMs and LOIs for proposed investment of Rs. 54,284 crore. FDI proposals worth Rs. 24,454 crore were approved during January-October 1998. Sanctions and disbursements by All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) increased by 36.9 per cent and 12.5 respectively during April-December 1998.

*[English]***Export of Coffee**

\*156. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :  
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coffee exported during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, till date;

(b) the names of countries to which coffee has been exported during the above period, year-wise;

(c) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period;

(d) whether export of coffee during the above period has declined;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the coffee exporters have suggested some proposals to boost the export of coffee;

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production and export of coffee?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (e) During 1996-97,